

SPRINGFIELD (Mass.)

MAY 3 1961

UNION

Circ.: m. 81,815

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Date: MAY 3 1961

## No Time for Raking the Ashes

One of the few plus points clinging to the wreckage of the ill-starred venture against Castro is the American attitude. There has been no public clamor for heads.

The reasons can only be guessed, but probably they are several. One, in all likelihood, is that the entire invasion operation was so shadowy that the role of the government in Washington is not clear to the average citizen. Another may be that, for whatever the role was, President Kennedy immediately shouldered full responsibility.

But the main factor appears to be that the national capital itself is keeping its collective head cool and looking to improved future performance, not to the fun of exposing bygone errors.

This is true so far of the conduct of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and its subcommittee on Latin American affairs as they receive reports on the part that various agencies played in the Cuban refugees' attempt and failure to recapture their homeland.

Certainly we need these reports from agency heads. The weak spots in the machinery must be detected, and then strengthened or replaced. But whether the fault lies with the Central Intelligence Agency, the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department, or in the coordination of the efforts of all, the objective should be not individual exposure but a better working system.

This is the course being taken by the senators, and by the President through his assignment of Gen. Maxwell Taylor to dig into the CIA and the Defense Department and to recommend on both intelligence and guerrilla warfare activities. The point is that we gain nothing by finding out what went wrong under whose direction unless the findings are hammered into positive improvement.

Where does the public come in? The senators are doing their listening and questioning in closed sessions, and commenting to the people through the press afterward. Gen. Taylor will report directly to the President.

In this case, it is to the President that the public must look for the ultimate accounting. He is obligated to supervise the trouble-shooting in his administration. He is obligated to correct the trouble and then publicly report, within the limits of national security, what has been done. This should involve minimum secrecy and maximum candor.

In the meantime, the indications are the President still enjoys the faith of the people. He has enhanced this himself by the range of his consultations since the Cuban defeat, and he has been helped by the nonpartisan support extended him by the persons he has consulted. Former President Eisenhower spoke for the nation when he said on Monday that "raking over the ashes" is not in order.